INTERNET USAGE POLICY

Rationale:

• The Internet provides students with unprecedented opportunities to obtain information, engage in discussion, and liaise with individuals, organisation and groups worldwide so as to increase skills, knowledge and abilities.
• Our School actively supports access by students to the widest variety of information resources available, accompanied by the development of the skills necessary to filter, analyse, interpret and evaluate information encountered.

Aims:

• To develop skills to discriminate and choose appropriate Internet usage.
• To improve student learning outcomes by increasing access to worldwide information.

Implementation:

• All students and staff at our school will have censorship filtered Internet and email access. All students and staff will have their own password protected Internet e-mail account and log on (determined by the teachers in each Level – and mostly applicable to Level 3 and Level 4). Such access is a privilege with responsibilities.
• An Internet Coordinator will be appointed, who will liaise with staff and the Support Technician to manage all email access, maintenance of the School’s web site, web filters and all other issues related to internet access by students.
• The School undertakes to ensure that information published on the Internet by students or the school is of a high standard, and meets legal requirements and standards of general practice within the community in relation to copyright, safety and decency.
• Student email access will be through monitored accounts under teacher supervision.
• All email accounts will be password protected and users will be responsible for clearing their mailboxes regularly.
• Guidelines on access rights will be defined for different user levels.
• All students shall be charged with the responsibility of notifying their teacher of any inappropriate material appearing via email or Internet so that access can be blocked.
• Consequences of publishing, accessing or failing to notify the Coordinator of inappropriate material shall include the removal of access rights.
• A Code of Conduct form (for all Level 3 and Level 4 students – and at teacher discretion at other levels) needs to be signed by parent and student in order to gain access to the Internet, or to publish work, photos or videos on the Internet.
• Privacy of students, parents, staff and other users must be recognised and respected at all times. When identifying students, only the student’s first name will be used.

Evaluation:

• This Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school’s regular review cycle.

TVPS August 2011
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